

### REMARKS

This is in response to an Office action dated 2/1/2005, wherein:

Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claims 1-17 are subject to restriction.

Claims 1-6 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 7-11, 17 are rejected.

Claims 12-16 are objected to.

The drawings are/not accepted?? (No indication in the Office action).

#### *Restriction*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-6 drawn to a method of forming solder bumps,
- II. Claims 7-17 drawn to an apparatus for forming solder balls

During a telephone conversation with Gerald Linden on 1-27-05 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group II, claims 7-17.

The election is affirmed herewith.

Claims 1-6 are canceled herewith.

#### *Drawings*

There was no indication in the Office action whether the drawings are accepted.

#### *Objection (Allowable Subject Matter)*

Claims 12-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not suggest or teach an apparatus for forming solder bumps, particularly the recess being sized and shaped to receive the manifold element.

Claim 12 is therefore rewritten by inserting substantially a copy of the text from claim 7, thereby making Claim 12 into an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Claims 13-16 depend from claim 12, and do not require amendment.

Claims 8-11, formerly dependent upon rejected claim 7, are amended to depend from allowable claim 12. Claim 10 is also amended to delete two superfluous words.

#### *Rejection*

Claims 7-11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Da Costa et al. (3,617,045).

Da Costa et al. teach a chuck assembly, said chuck assembly comprising: a rigid, generally planar chuck base having a cavity extending into the chuck base from a top surface thereof (figure 4, item 50), a generally planar, flexible diaphragm extending across the cavity and secured to the chuck base (figure 4, item 62 and 58); said cavity

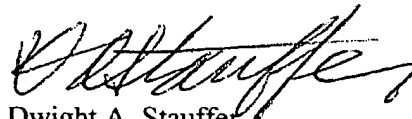
being sized and shaped to receive the diaphragm (figure 4, item 58); an inlet tube extending from exterior the chuck base to within the cavity, underneath the diaphragm (figure 4, item 50); a permeable substrate disposed beneath the diaphragm, between the diaphragm and a bottom surface of the cavity (figure 4, item 58); the permeable substrate comprises such as a powdered metal plate (figure 4, item 58) the diaphragm comprises a sheet of silicon rubber material (figure 4, item 62) a central recess extending into the stage from a top surface thereof, said recess sized and shaped to receive a generally planar, flexible diaphragm, said diaphragm extending across the recess (figure 4 items 62 and 58).

Applicant chooses to refrain from providing any comment at this time. Claims 7 and 17 are cancelled. A continuing application may be filed.

### *Conclusion*

The undersigned Agent of Record has made a sincere effort to amend the claims of this application in response to the present Office Action so that they define novel structure which is non-obvious. Favorable re-examination and consideration are respectfully requested. If there are still some issues to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 703-872-9306) on Monday, May 2, 2005.

Name of Person Signing Certificate : Dwight A. Stauffer

Signature



Date of Person signing : May 2, 2005